

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

The Examiner rejected previously submitted dependent claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Roberts U.S. 5,487,633. Applicant by the instant amendment has incorporated a portion of dependent claim 38 into independent claim 37. In addition, independent claim 37 has been amended so as to set forth that the tube stub is hollow. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments made patentably define over the Roberts patent. The Roberts patent does not teach or suggest the combination of a hollow tube stub with a top plate having a blind hole and a beveled portion between the top plate and the tube stub as a transition. It is the beveled portion as claimed in independent claim 37 which allows for the screw plug to seal in the manner disclosed in the instant application which constitutes the crux of the invention.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejections and issue a formal notice of allowance.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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